

Ibrahim
Serial No. 09/444,095

solution to improve affinity binding may in some instances be necessary, hence the claims provide for "conditions for denaturing said sample and binding said DNA or RNA to said sample collection assembly". This can be accomplished by, for example, adjusting the pH and salt concentrations, electric charge of the support or addition of detergents or other chemical agents to force the binding of nucleic acids to the matrix. The modifying agents can be added into the sample denaturing agent directly or in a subsequent step to enhance the binding process.

In some instances, a simple sample denaturing solution alone will be sufficient to release DNA or RNA from cells which will then bind to the support. See Boorn et al. paper, attached hereto, incorporated by reference in the application at page 9, lines 13-15.

The claimed invention is adaptable to a variety of protocols for purification of nucleic acids and proteins from a variety of samples. This method includes a sample denaturing solution, a wash buffer and an elution buffer. The present invention is thus, directed to a method that employs a novel and versatile device for sample processing and detection using general protocols and techniques.

The present invention is not in any way limited to simply breaking apart double stranded DNA and binding the resulting single stranded DNA to a probe.

This amendment has been made to clarify the steps of the method of the invention. Support for this amendment is recited in the specification, page 10, lines 12-20, page 7, last paragraph through page 9, line 24. No new matter has been added.

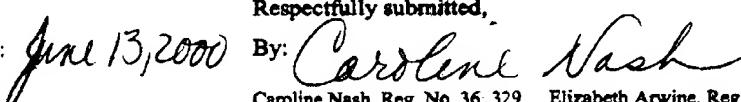
Applicant's representative requests that the Examiner call her at (301) 924-9500 if the Examiner has any questions.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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